



PTO/SB/08a (08-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no person is required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

**Complete if Known**

Application Number	09/668,296
Filing Date	September 25, 2000
First Named Inventor	Makoto HIRAHARA et al.
Group Art Unit	3623
Examiner Name	SHAFFER, E.
Attorney Docket Number	HIRAHARA=1

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
ETS	AA	US-5,265,006	November 23, 1993	ASTHANA et al	
ETS	AB	US-5,913,201	June 15, 1999	KOCUR	
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			

**RECEIVED**

FEB 13 2004

**GROUP 3600****FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Number Country Code <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>

**OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published	T <sup>2</sup>
ETS	AC	ANANTARAM, C., et al., "Crew Rostering System; An Expert System for Scheduling Crew for Indian Airlines", Orlando, March 1-5, 1993, Los Alamitos, IEEE COMP. SOC. PRESS, U.S. vol. CONF 9, March 1, 1993, p.63-70 XP 010125574	
ETS	AD	ONODERA, K, "Cockpit Crew Scheduling and Supporting System Using AI Techniques", NEC Research and Development, NIPPON ELECTRIC LTD. Tokyo, Japan, no. 92, 1989, p.151-156 XP 000120134	

Examiner  
SignatureDate  
Considered

June 11, 2004

\* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.